

## IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title of the invention as follows:

A Scale having Surface Plate that Provides Sole Structural Connection of its Support Members

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims 8-22.

A complete listing of all claims in this application is set forth below.

1. (original) A scale comprising a pair of elongate support members, each member containing a gauge which provides an indication of the weight of an item placed across the two members, the members being structurally connected solely via a surface plate adapted to rest on the support members to provide a substantially flat surface to receive items to be weighed.

2. (original) A scale as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gauge is a strain gauge.

3. (original) A scale as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rigidity of the surface plate is increased as the separation of the two members is increased.

4. (original) A scale as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plate is transparent to radiation utilized to scan barcodes on items.

5. (original) A scale as claimed in claim 1, comprising an electronics box, which is adapted to translate the output of the gauges of the two members into a recognizable weight.

6. (original) A scale as claimed in claim 5, wherein the box is located adjacent a first of the two members and the gauge in the second member is coupled to the box via RS232 lead.

7. (original) A scale as claimed in claim 1, wherein each member is approximately 19.4 inches (9.4. cm) long.

8. (new) A scale, comprising:

a first gauge assembly having (i) a first gauge operable to generate a first output in response to force being applied thereagainst, and (ii) a first elongated support member positioned in relation to said first gauge such that force applied against said first elongate support member causes force to be applied against said first gauge;

a second gauge assembly having (i) a second gauge operable to generate a second output in response to force being applied thereagainst, and (ii) a second elongated support member positioned in relation to said second gauge such that force applied against said second elongate support member causes force to be applied against said second gauge; and

a load plate configured to rest on said first elongated support member and said second elongated support member,

wherein said first gauge assembly and said second gauge assembly are structurally connected solely via said load plate when said load plate rests on said first elongated support member and said second elongated support member.

9. (new) The scale of claim 8, wherein said first gauge and said second gauge are each a strain gauge.

10. (new) The scale of claim 8, further comprising an electronics box operable to translate said first output and said second output into a weight value.

11. (new) The scale of claim 10, wherein said first gauge and said second gauge are each coupled to said electronics box.
12. (new) The scale of claim 11, wherein said second gauge is coupled to said electronics box via an RS232 wire.
13. (new) The scale of claim 8, wherein said load plate is transparent to radiation utilized to scan barcodes on items.
14. (new) The scale of claim 8, wherein said first elongated support member and said second elongated support member are each approximately 19.4 inches (9.4. cm) long.
15. (new) The scale of claim 8, wherein said first gauge assembly and said second gauge assembly are freely movable toward and away from each other.

16. (new) A scale, comprising:

a first gauge assembly having (i) a first gauge operable to generate a first output in response to force being applied thereagainst, and (ii) a first elongated support member positioned in relation to said first gauge such that force applied against said first elongate support member causes force to be applied against said first gauge;

a second gauge assembly having (i) a second gauge operable to generate a second output in response to force being applied thereagainst, and (ii) a second elongated support member positioned in relation to said second gauge such that force applied against said second elongate support member causes force to be applied against said second gauge; and

a load plate resting on said first elongated support member and said second elongated support member,

wherein said first gauge assembly and said second gauge assembly are freely movable toward and away from each other.

17. (new) The scale of claim 16, wherein said first gauge and said second gauge are each a strain gauge.

18. (new) The scale of claim 16, further comprising an electronics box operable to translate said first output and said second output into a weight value.

19. (new) The scale of claim 18, wherein said first gauge and said second gauge are each coupled to said electronics box.

20. (new) The scale of claim 19, wherein said second gauge is coupled to said electronics box via an RS232 wire.

21. (new) The scale of claim 16, wherein said load plate is transparent to radiation utilized to scan barcodes on items.

22. (new) The scale of claim 16, wherein said first elongated support member and said second elongated support member are each approximately 19.4 inches (9.4. cm) long.